

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes comprising:

scanning a code using a portable device
wherein the portable device comprises code scanning
equipment and an output device;

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        acquiring information associated with
the scanned code;

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displaying the acquired information on
the output device; and

performing an action associated with the scanned code.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring information associated with the scanned code comprises acquiring information from a remote site.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring information associated with the scanned code comprises acquiring information from a docking station.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is acquired via a wireless path.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the action comprises scheduling the recording of a television program.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the action comprises setting or un-setting reminders.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the action comprises providing enhanced information associated with the scanned code.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the action is initiated by a user.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein a user is presented with an option to perform an action.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein a user is presented with multiple options to perform multiple corresponding actions.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein a user is presented with one or more options to perform actions and wherein the options presented depend on the code scanned.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the action is performed automatically without user action.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the action is performed using the portable device.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the action is performed using a docking station.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein performing an action associated with the scanned code comprises scheduling the use of equipment or facilities.

26. The method of claim 1 wherein information associated with scanned codes is presented to the user in a language determined by the user.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the scanned code is the code of a Universal Resource

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28. The method of claim 1 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

30. The method of claim 1 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

32. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes, comprising:

acquiring information associated with
the scanned code; and

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

34. The method of claim 32 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a

44. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises scheduling a recording of multiple television programs.

45. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises scheduling a reminder for the television program.

46. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises purchasing an authorization for the television program.

47. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises finding a local channel or air time for the television program.

48. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises presenting additional information related to the television program.

49. The method of claim 32 wherein the action comprises presenting the television program for the user to view.

50. The method of claim 32 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

51. The method of claim 32 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

52. The method of claim 32 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

53. The method of claim 32 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

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scanning a code using a portable device
wherein the portable device comprises code scanning
equipment;

performing an action related to an event associated with the code.

55. The method of claim 54 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

56. The method of claim 54 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

57. The method of claim 54 wherein the information is acquired via a wireless path.

58. The method of claim 57 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

59. The method of claim 57 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

60. The method of claim 57 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

62. The method of claim 54 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

64. The method of claim 62 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

66. The method of claim 65 wherein the remainder is presented on the portable device.

68. The method of claim 65 wherein the reminder is sent using an electronic mail message.

70. The method of claim 54 wherein the action comprises cancelling a reminder for the event.

71. The method of claim 54 wherein the action comprises presenting additional information related to the event.

72. The method of claim 54 wherein the action comprises purchasing the event.

73. The method of claim 54 wherein the action relates to multiple events.

74. The method of claim 54 wherein the event is selected from the group consisting of a television program, a movie, a play, a web event, a public exhibition, a sporting event, a sales event, a meeting, an appointment and a conference.

75. The method of claim 54 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

76. The method of claim 54 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

77. The method of claim 54 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

78. The method of claim 54 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

79. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes comprising:

scanning a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

acquiring information associated with the scanned code; and

performing an action related to a product, good, or service associated with the code.

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81. The method of claim 79 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

83. The method of claim 82 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

85. The method of claim 82 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

87. The method of claim 79 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

89. The method of claim 87 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

90. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises purchasing the product, good, or service.

91. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises requesting more information about the product, good, or service.

92. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises requesting a demonstration, sample, or test of the product, good, or service.

93. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises adding the product, good, or service to a wish list, consider list, or gift registry.

94. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises adding the product, good, or service to a comparison shopping list.

95. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises finding the local availability or price of the product, good, or service.

96. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises getting directions to a local merchant of the product, good, or service.

97. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises finding options of the product, good, or service.

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99. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises bidding for the product, good, or service.

99. The method of claim 79 wherein the action comprises bidding for the product, good, or service.

100. The method of claim 79 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

101. The method of claim 79 wherein the code
is scanned from broadcast material.

102. The method of claim 79 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

103. The method of claim 79 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

104. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes comprising:

scanning a code using a portable device
wherein the portable device comprises code scanning
equipment;

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        acquiring information associated with
the scanned code;

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providing enhanced information
associated with the code.

105. The method of claim 104 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a

106. The method of claim 104 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

108. The method of claim 107 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

110. The method of claim 107 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

112. The method of claim 104 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

114. The method of claim 112 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

115. The method of claim 104 further comprising presenting one or more options related to the code.

116. The method of claim 115 wherein one of the options is dependent on which code is scanned.

117. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is associated with an advertisement.

118. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is associated with a promotion.

119. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is associated with an article.

120. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

121. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

122. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

123. The method of claim 104 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

124. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes comprising:

scanning a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

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acquiring information associated with the scanned code; and

scheduling the use of equipment or a facility associated with the code.

125. The method of claim 124 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

126. The method of claim 124 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

127. The method of claim 124 wherein the information is acquired via a wireless path.

128. The method of claim 127 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

129. The method of claim 127 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

130. The method of claim 127 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

131. The method of claim 127 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

132. The method of claim 124 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

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133. The method of claim 132 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

134. The method of claim 132 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

135. The method of claim 124 further comprising verifying a specific user of the equipment or facility based on which portable device was used to scan the code.

136. The method of claim 124 further comprising allowing the user to specify a time range for the use of the equipment or facility.

137. The method of claim 124 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

138. The method of claim 124 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

139. A method for using a portable scanning device for acquiring information associated with codes comprising:

scanning a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

acquiring information associated with the scanned code; and

presenting the information to the user in a language determined by the user.

140. The method of claim 139 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a

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user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

141. The method of claim 139 further comprising presenting the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

142. The method of claim 139 wherein the information is acquired via a wireless path.

143. The method of claim 142 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

144. The method of claim 142 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

145. The method of claim 142 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

146. The method of claim 142 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

147. The method of claim 139 wherein the information is acquired via wired means.

148. The method of claim 147 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

149. The method of claim 147 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

156. The system of claim 154 wherein the portable scanning device is further configured to acquire information from a docking station.

157. The system of claim 154 wherein the portable scanning device is further configured to acquire information via a wireless path.

158. The system of claim 157 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

159. The system of claim 157 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

160. The system of claim 157 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

161. The system of claim 157 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

162. The system of claim 154 wherein the portable scanning device is further configured to acquire information via wired means.

163. The system of claim 162 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

164. The system of claim 162 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

165. The system of claim 154 wherein the action comprises displaying information associated with an event.

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167. The system of claim 154 wherein the action comprises scheduling the recording of a television series.

169. The system of claim 154 wherein the action comprises purchasing a product, good, or service associated with the code.

171. The system of claim 154 wherein the action is initiated by a user.

173. The system of claim 154 wherein a user is presented with multiple options to perform multiple corresponding actions.

174. The system of claim 154 wherein a user is presented with one or more options to perform actions and wherein the options presented depend on the code scanned.

175. The system of claim 154 wherein the action is performed automatically without user action.

176. The system of claim 154 wherein the action is performed using the portable device.

177. The system of claim 154 wherein the action is performed using a docking station.

178. The system of claim 154 wherein the action associated with the scanned code comprises scheduling the use of equipment or facilities.

179. The system of claim 154 wherein information associated with scanned codes is presented to the user in a language determined by the user.

180. The system of claim 154 wherein the scanned code is the code of a Universal Resource Locator, the system further configured to launch a web-browser and display a web-page associated with the Universal Resource Locator.

181. The system of claim 154 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

182. The system of claim 154 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

183. The system of claim 154 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

184. The system of claim 154 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

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185. A system for using a portable scanning device for allowing a user to acquire information associated with codes, the system configured to:

scan a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

acquire information associated with the scanned code; and

perform an action related to a television program associated with the code.

186. The system of claim 185 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

187. The system of claim 185 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

188. The system of claim 185 wherein the information is communicated via a wireless path.

189. The system of claim 188 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

190. The system of claim 188 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

191. The system of claim 188 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

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192. The system of claim 188 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

193. The system of claim 185 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

194. The system of claim 193 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

195. The system of claim 193 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

196. The system of claim 185 wherein the action comprises scheduling a recording of the television program.

197. The system of claim 185 wherein the action comprises scheduling a recording of multiple television programs.

198. The system of claim 185 wherein the action comprises scheduling a reminder for the television program.

199. The system of claim 185 wherein the action comprises purchasing an authorization for the television program.

200. The system of claim 185 wherein the action comprises finding a local channel or air time for the television program.

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user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

209. The system of claim 207 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

210. The system of claim 207 wherein the information is communicated via a wireless path.

211. The system of claim 210 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

212. The system of claim 210 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

213. The system of claim 210 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

214. The system of claim 210 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

215. The system of claim 207 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

216. The system of claim 215 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

217. The system of claim 215 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

218. The system of claim 207 wherein the action comprises setting a reminder for the event.

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219. The system of claim 218 wherein the reminder is presented on the portable device.

220. The system of claim 218 wherein the reminder is presented on a docking station.

221. The system of claim 218 wherein the reminder is sent using an electronic mail message.

222. The system of claim 218 wherein the reminder is sent using an instant message.

223. The system of claim 207 wherein the action comprises cancelling a reminder for the event.

224. The system of claim 207 wherein the action comprises presenting additional information related to the event.

225. The system of claim 207 wherein the action comprises purchasing the event.

226. The system of claim 207 wherein the action relates to multiple events.

227. The system of claim 207 wherein the event is selected from the group consisting of a television program, a movie, a play, a web event, a public exhibition, a sporting event, a sales event, a meeting, an appointment and a conference.

228. The system of claim 207 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

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229. The system of claim 207 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

230. The system of claim 207 wherein the code is scanned from a television program.

231. The system of claim 207 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

232. A system for using a portable scanning device for allowing a user to acquire information associated with codes, the system configured to:

scan a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

acquire information associated with the scanned code; and

perform an action related to a product, good, or service associated with the code.

233. The system of claim 232 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

234. The system of claim 232 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

235. The system of claim 232 wherein the information is communicated via a wireless path.

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236. The system of claim 235 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

237. The system of claim 235 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

238. The system of claim 235 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

239. The system of claim 235 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

240. The system of claim 232 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

241. The system of claim 240 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

242. The system of claim 240 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

243. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises purchasing the product, good, or service.

244. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises requesting more information about the product, good, or service.

245. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises requesting a demonstration, sample, or test of the product, good, or service.

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247. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises adding the product, good, or service to a comparison shopping list.

249. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises getting directions to a local merchant of the product, good, or service.

251. The system of claim 232 wherein the action comprises requesting a price alert for the product, good, or service.

253. The system of claim 232 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

254. The system of claim 232 wherein the code is scanned from broadcast material.

262. The system of claim 260 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

263. The system of claim 260 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

264. The system of claim 260 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

265. The system of claim 257 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

266. The system of claim 265 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

267. The system of claim 265 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

268. The system of claim 257 further configured to present one or more options related to the code.

269. The system of claim 257 wherein one of the options is dependent on which code is scanned.

270. The system of claim 257 wherein the code is associated with an advertisement.

271. The system of claim 257 wherein the code is associated with a promotion.

272. The system of claim 257 wherein the code is associated with an article.

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279. The system of claim 277 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

280. The system of claim 277 wherein the information is communicated via a wireless path.

281. The system of claim 280 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

282. The system of claim 280 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

283. The system of claim 280 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

284. The system of claim 280 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

285. The system of claim 277 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

286. The system of claim 285 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

287. The system of claim 285 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

288. The system of claim 277 further configured to verify a specific user of the equipment or facility based on which portable device was used to scan the code.

289. The system of claim 277 further configured to allow the user to specify a time range for the use of the equipment or facility.

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290. The system of claim 277 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

291. The system of claim 277 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

292. A system for using a portable scanning device for allowing a user to acquire information associated with codes, the system configured to:

scan a code using a portable device wherein the portable device comprises code scanning equipment;

acquire information associated with the scanned code; and

present the information to the user in a language determined by the user.

293. The system of claim 292 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the docking station via an output device at the docking station.

294. The system of claim 292 further configured to present the acquired information to a user at the portable device via an output device at the portable device.

295. The system of claim 292 wherein the information is communicated via a wireless path.

296. The system of claim 295 wherein the wireless path is an infrared path.

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297. The system of claim 295 wherein the wireless path is a radio frequency path.

298. The system of claim 295 wherein the wireless path is an IEEE standard 802.11(b) path.

299. The system of claim 295 wherein the wireless path is a Bluetooth standard path.

300. The system of claim 292 wherein the information is communicated via wired means.

301. The system of claim 300 wherein the wired means is a hardware interface.

302. The system of claim 300 wherein the wired means is a FireWire link.

303. The system of claim 292 wherein the information is acquired in the language determined by the user.

304. The system of claim 292 wherein the information is acquired in a language other than the language determined by the user, the system further configured to automatically translate the information into the language determined by the user.

305. The system of claim 292 wherein the code is scanned from printed material.

306. The system of claim 292 wherein the code is scanned from another portable scanning device.

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